

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18 are pending in this application. No claims are amended in this paper.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1-6, 9-15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,956,025 to Goulden et al. (hereinafter, merely “Goulden”) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,837 to Yeo et al. (hereinafter, merely “Yeo”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. U.S. 5,977,974 to Hatori et al. (hereinafter, merely “Hatori”) and U.S. Patent No. U.S. 6,253,218 to Aoki et al. (hereinafter, merely “Aoki”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,877,772 to Nomura et al. (hereinafter, merely “Nomura”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“wherein the value of maximum number of images that are allowed to be arranged spirally is displayed with the plurality of images,” (emphasis added)

The Office Action (see page 6) concedes that Goulden, Yeo, Hatori, and Aoki fails to disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1 and relies on item 232 in Figure 23 of Nomura to reject **“wherein the value of maximum number of images that are**

allowed to be arranged spirally is displayed with the plurality of images,” as recited in independent claim 1. The cited portion of Nomura describes that “as shown in FIG. 23, a hatching design/pattern 231 and a category number 232 on the hatching specifying window 230 are then specified for the regions by operating the pointing device 38. That is to say, after some regions have been specified, a hatching design/pattern and a category number are assigned to the specified regions by using the hatching specifying window 230. In this way, the same category number is assigned to a plurality of specified regions and, at the same time, a hatching design/pattern is specified for a category denoted by the number.” Applicants respectfully submit that the category number 232 of Nomura is assigned to a plurality of regions and does not disclose or suggest the value of maximum number of images that are allowed to be arranged spirally is displayed with the plurality of images, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, claim 10 is patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Each of the other claims in this application is dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and is therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons presented for the independent claim upon which it depends. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on

each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.


Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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